

REMARKS

All pending claims, Claims 1-4, 6-17 and 19-22, stand rejected under Section 103 as being obvious over Sturgeon (6466336) in view of Liu (6735335). All of the rejections are based on the assertions that (1) the use of page designations to identify misfed pages in Sturgeon is the same as the claimed use of a registration characteristic, and (2) Liu teaches a layout attribute analyzer that verifies the size of the margins on a scanned page. Neither assertion is correct.

First, Sturgeon does not teach the use of page designations to identify misfed pages. The Office's assertion to the contrary is not correct. Rather, Sturgeon teaches the use of page designations to (1) collate pages in a scanned document when the scanning page order is not the same as the desired document page order, Sturgeon, column 6, lines 31-34 and column 7, lines 9-13, and (2) determine inconsistencies in the orientation of pages in a scanned document, Sturgeon, column 6, lines 37-53. In Sturgeon, misfed pages are identified "by comparing the number of pages actually scanned to a desired or predetermined number." Sturgeon, column 5, lines 54-57.

Second, Liu does not teach a layout attribute analyzer that verifies the size of the margins on a scanned page. The Office's assertion to the contrary is not correct. Liu teaches the use of page layout attributes such as page numbers, page headers, page footers, heading and captions, to determine whether or not scanned pages belong to the same document. Liu, column 7, lines 26-30. Liu does not mention a margin or margins -- neither term appears in Liu.

Third, a "registration characteristic" as recited in the claims refers to a characteristic that reflects how the page is registered for scanning. Register in this context means the alignment of the page in the scanner, as noted in the

Specification at page 5, lines 7 through page 6, line 11, which is consistent with the ordinary dictionary definition of "register." See, for example, Random House Webster's College Dictionary ("11. a precise adjustment or correspondence, as of lines or columns, esp. on the two sides of a printed leaf"). Sturgeon's use of page designations to determine inconsistencies in the orientation of pages in a scanned document is irrelevant to the alignment of a page in the scanner, as is the use of the layout attributes mentioned in Liu to determine whether or not scanned pages belong to the same document. Sturgeon and Liu just don't have anything to do with the page registration limitations recited in the claims. If the Office disagrees, it is respectfully requested to specifically point out *and explain* those passages in Sturgeon or Liu that might reasonably be deemed to teach or even suggest anything about identifying a page for review based on a page registration characteristic.

Finally, it is interesting to note that the techniques described in Sturgeon and Liu will function more effectively if the pages are properly aligned in the scanner. Sturgeon and Liu *assume* the pages will be properly aligned in the scanner -- that each page has the desired registration characteristic. Both Sturgeon and Liu, therefore, could benefit from the claimed invention to help insure that any misaligned pages, whose content might not be recognized correctly, are identified for review.

The rejection of the claims should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,


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